



BORRIS L. MILES

STATE SENATOR DISTRICT 13

COMMITTEES: Criminal Justice, Health and Human Services, Natural Resources and Economic Development and Nominations

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Senator Miles Passes Bill to Bring \$1 Billion for Uncompensated Care

AUSTIN - Senator Borris L. Miles passed HB 3459/SB 2022, which would allow local Harris County hospitals to draw down close to \$1 billion in federal Medicaid reimbursement funds at no cost to the taxpayers.

"My senate district is home to the world's largest medical center with many safety net hospitals working around the clock providing primary care services to many low-income and uninsured Texans," said Senator Borris L. Miles. "This bill will help our hospitals receive almost \$1 billion of federal funds to help offset some of the uncompensated care costs to help care for the indigent and uninsured in our community."

Since 2013, Texas hospitals in 20 counties have successfully created local provider participation funds to generate parts of the non-federal share of Medicaid payments.

HB 3459, the companion to Senator Miles' SB 2022 would allow Harris County the option to create a local provider participation fund to enable local safety-net hospitals to gain access to the Texas Waiver and the Texas Health and Human Service Commission's new Uniform Hospital Rate Increase Program. The hospitals in these communities would receive millions of additional dollars in Medicaid payments as a result; dollars that otherwise would have gone elsewhere.

"I want to thank Houston's hospitals and Representative Garnet Coleman (D- Houston) for their hard work on this legislation to bring federal dollars back to Harris County to help provide resources for indigent healthcare in Harris County," said Senator Miles.

HB 3459 will go to the governor for final consideration.

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